



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

February 9, 1976

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics
(415) 497-5052

COPY

Dr. Harry Paul
Department of History
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

Dear Dr. Paul,

I was interested to see how many different things I found of particular interest to my own studies in your book "The Sorcerer's Apprentice"; even though I have to say I had looked into it to get some further illumination on the relationships of Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch, which I did not find.

I still want to ask you whether you could point me to some other sources that might bear upon these two men and particularly the extent to which their personal, religious, and nationalistic conflicts might have borne directly on their scientific work. I have read the conventional biographies of Pasteur but have not found very much on Koch for the other side.

You made some remarks on page 73 that I was at first tempted to challenge - that German chemistry had in fact made much use of topology and had gone really deeply into the prediction and renumeration of carbon compounds. In one of my disparate scientific incarnations I have actually done quite a bit of work on the combinatorics of organic chemistry and my inclination would have been, to deplore how inadequate was the use of some fairly elementary mathematical reasoning in exploring the domain of hypothetical structures. I am reminded, however, of the very early and creative work of van't Hoff and Le Bel and their use of topological reasoning at a very fundamental level and I guess this is really what you meant in your remark. In fact, I would be interested in to references to the sources that you used for this particular part of your discussion or are you drawing primarily on Duhem, reference 52. Where, for instance, is the Kekule Memorial Lecture by F.R. Japp?

While I would certainly appreciate any bibliographic help you can give me in response to these questions, let me thank you first of all for your book itself.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

*French Scientist's Image
of German Science 1840-1919*
JL/rr